



STATE OF WISCONSIN

Senate Journal

Ninety–Ninth Regular Session

2:00 P.M.

MONDAY, January 5, 2009

The Senate met.

The Senate was called to order by Senator Risser.

The Senate Stood for the prayer which was offered by United Methodist Pastor and former State Representative Harvey Stower, who is also currently in his sixth term as the mayor of Amery. He spent eight years in the Wisconsin State Legislature representing the 28th Assembly District between 1982 and 1992. In addition, he serves on the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Board, and the Boards of the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives, the Western Wisconsin Intergovernmental Collaborative, Wisconsin Church and Society–the United Methodist Church, and Inter–County Cooperative Publishing Association. Mr. Stower has also been the recipient of the 2001 Award for Excellence from the Robert Gard Wisconsin Idea Foundation, and numerous awards for his work on issues regarding human services, environmental protections, the arts, and veterans programs.

“Although you are known by many names by many people, may your spirit; the spirit of love, justice, and mercy be present here today and throughout this senate session. We gather with a cloud of witnesses, the memory of so many who have made this very room their workplace for the people of Wisconsin.

Knowles, Nelson, Hollander, Krueger, Plewa and more; who could combine principle with civility. We ask your blessing upon all the senators here, all have taken noble risks to be on a ballot. And remind them daily, that this fine addiction that we have of politics and that we enjoy is a hard won legacy for many of those in our history that have fought for our freedom and our human rights. That is a legacy we need to be reminded of.

Remind us, that it is not that we play for keeps, but for being our brothers and sisters keeper. That we are here to serve and not to be served, and that we are judged finally by how we treat the least of the brothers and sisters among us. We give thanks for this most beautiful office building in the state, and for all those who make up the community of the capitol; for staffers and police, custodians, the media, press, pages, constituents, and lobbyists all. We give you thanks.

And finally, bless our families and loved ones that put up with the political life and grant us grace to tell them often that we love them. Amen.”

The Colors were presented by the VFW Day Post 7591 Color Guard Unit of Madison, WI.

The National Anthem was performed by the Trumpet Ensemble from Antigo High School in the 12th Senate District, directed by Jeff Dewey.

The Senate remained standing and Senator Carpenter led the Senate in the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

State of Wisconsin Government Accountability Board

December 4, 2008

The Honorable, The Senate:

I am pleased to provide you with a copy of the official canvass of the November 4, 2008 General Election vote for state senator along with the determination by the designee of the Chairperson of the Government Accountability Board of the winners.

With this letter, I am delivering the Certificates of Election for the winners to you for distribution.

If the Government Accountability Board can provide you with further information or assistance, please contact our office.

Sincerely,
KEVIN J. KENNEDY
Director and General Counsel

Statement of Canvass for State Senator

GENERAL ELECTION, November 4, 2008

I, William Eich, designee of the Chairperson of the Government Accountability Board, certify that the attached tabular statements, as compiled from the certified returns made to the Government Accountability Board by the county clerks of the several counties of the state, contain a correct abstract of the total number of votes given, including a recount in the 18th State Senate District, for the election of candidates for State Senator, at a General Election held in the several towns, wards, villages and election districts in said counties on the Fourth day of November, 2008.

I DO, THEREFORE, DETERMINE AND CERTIFY that the following candidates, having each received the greatest number of votes in their respective senatorial districts, are duly elected State Senator:

Senate District

2nd District
4th District
6th District
8th District
10th District
12th District
14th District

Elected

Robert L. Cowles
Lena C. Taylor
Spencer Coggs
Alberta Darling
Sheila Harsdorf
Jim Holperin
Luther S. Olsen

16th District	Mark Miller
18th District	Randy Hopper
20th District	Glenn Grothman
22nd District	Robert W. Wirsch
24th District	Julie M. Lassa
26th District	Fred A. Risser
28th District	Mary Lazich
30th District	Dave Hansen
32nd District	Dan Kapanke

Done in the City of Madison, this 1st day of December, 2008.

WILLIAM EICH
Designee of the Chairperson
Government Accountability Board

Remarks of Majority Leader Decker

“Welcome to the opening of the 99th session of the Wisconsin State Senate.

Each session of the Wisconsin State Legislature brings new faces and over time, we have seen a long cast of characters.

And we are lucky enough to have two real characters from our past here today. Please welcome Judge Lynn Adelman and Pastor and former Representative Harvey Stower.

Our state is a better place thanks to their service and we are honored to have them here today.

In the last election, Wisconsin voters embraced change and history when they supported a charismatic man whose father was from Kenya, his mother was from Kansas and he was raised by his grandparents in Hawaii. That man is President-elect Barack Obama.

The voters said they want change. They want a new direction to deal with the problems we face today.

We need to think. We need to be creative. We need to change.

That is how we will move Wisconsin forward.

So welcome to a new year and a new session.”

IN THE CHAIR

Pursuant to Senate Rule 2 (1), Senate President Pro Tempore Carpenter in the chair.

With unanimous consent, the party leaders introduced their respective members as they came before the bar to be sworn in.

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Cowles

“Senator Cowles was first elected to the State Senate in an April, 1987 special election and has been re-elected every four years since. Prior to his election to the Senate, Rob served in the State Assembly from 1983–1987.

Senator Cowles has gained a reputation for being a vigilant watchdog against higher state spending. Rob has been an outspoken opponent of irresponsible state budgeting that has led to the poor fiscal conditions in which we now find our state.

As a past and current member of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, Senator Cowles routinely request audits on state programs in an effort to find efficiencies and save taxpayer dollars. Audits of state programs conducted at Rob’s request, such as the state’s Information Technology projects and car fleet, have resulted in tens of millions of dollars in savings to taxpayers.

Senator Cowles is also known as a strong defender of our environment. Balancing sound environmental protection with the need to create and maintain quality jobs in our state, the Senator has guided responsible environmental and business policy for Wisconsin. Rob is particularly proud of his work with a bipartisan group of legislators to ensure passage of the Great Lakes Compact in the last session, as well as his work on a comprehensive energy efficiency and renewable energy bill that was designed to provide long-term economic and environmental benefits to the state.”

Senator Decker Introduced Senator Taylor

“The Senator from the 4th is entering her second term in the State Senate. She has come to our house after serving a term in the Assembly.

The 4th District stretches from Milwaukee’s Riverwest community to the Northwest corner of the city and also includes wards in Glendale and Wauwatosa. This diverse and dynamic district is an invigorated, redeveloping and integrating community and includes some the great sections of old Milwaukee, like the Rufus King Neighborhood, where this Senator hails from.

Her district has elected to return a leader in the matters of justice. This senator serves in distinction for her work on the justice system and the rights of all people. She is a passionate voice for the people of her district and her community.

Senator Taylor is joined by her son Isaiah, and her parents, Wilbert and Lena J Taylor. Please stand and be recognized.

Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Lena C Taylor.”

Senator Decker Introduced Senator Coggs

“The Senator from the 6th is beginning his 3rd term in the state Senate and his 26th year of service as a Wisconsin Legislator. He has previously served as a City of Milwaukee Health Inspector and Chief Steward of AFSCME Local 1091.

He is best known for his work on health care issues through enactment of his lead poisoning prevention programs that have saved the lives of countless Wisconsin children, and as Chairman of the Board of Milwaukee Health Services, Incorporated. He is also known for his work on criminal justice issues through his service as Chairman of the Governor’s Commission on Reducing Racial Disparities in Wisconsin’s Criminal Justice System.

He is a lifelong resident of the city of Milwaukee, having earned degrees from Riverside University High School, Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. He and his wife Gershia are the proud parents of two children, Kijana Coggs and Mariama Coggs-Linares.

Joining Senator Coggs today is his wife Gershia. Please stand and be recognized.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Spencer Coggs.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Darling

“Senator Alberta Darling was elected to the State Senate in 1992 after previously serving in the State Assembly. The 8th Senate District includes portions of Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee Counties.

A former teacher, Senator Darling entered public service with a commitment to protecting, educating and improving the lives of children. She has been a champion for reform efforts that expand educational opportunities for Wisconsin students and has authored landmark legislation for protecting children and families, including the Sexual Predator Law, the Sex Offender Registry and the Internet Predator Law.

Senator Darling is a member and former co-chair of the Joint Committee on Finance and has served on a variety of committees, including Health, Education and Economic Development.

Senator Darling has been married to Dr. William Darling for over 40 years. They are the parents of two children, Liza and Will, and proud grandparents of grandson Charlie and Granddaughter Andie.

Joining Senator Darling today is her husband, Dr. Bill Darling."

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Hardorf

"Senator Sheila Harsdorf is beginning her third term representing the 10th Senate District. She will be the longest serving senator from that district since former Governor Robert Knowles.

Senator Harsdorf's roots are in dairy farming. Her parents, Ervin and Eloise, brought the Harsdorf Family to western Wisconsin to make a better life in farming nearly four decades ago.

Seeing how our everyday lives are affected by public policy, particularly the lives of those working on farms, Senator Harsdorf got involved in public service. She was first elected to the State Assembly in 1988, serving 10 years there before being elected to the State Senate in 2000.

Today, Senator Harsdorf and her teenage son, Ryan, live in River Falls Township. Senator Harsdorf is an important leader on agricultural and higher education issues. Senator Harsdorf is also a strong advocate for western Wisconsin, leading the way on the Crackdown on Meth Act.

Joining Senator Harsdorf today is her son, Ryan Bailey, along with Naomi Magner, Casie Kelley, and Jan Jablonski who provided instrumental help with her re-election."

Senator Decker Introduced Senator Holperin

"The Senator from the 12th District is starting his first term in the Senate today, but he is not new to the State Capitol. Many of you know that he previously represented one of the Assembly Districts of this senate seat. But this is not Jim's first leg of legislative service in the Senate. He was appointed Assistant Chief Clerk of the State Senate in 1977.

Now he is representing the largest geographical Senate district, and Jim knows it well. He was born and raised in the district and has continued to live in the area through stints as the State Tourism Secretary and as Executive Director of Trees for Tomorrow.

Jim and his wife Kathy have two sons, Christopher and Andrew. The Holperins also own and operate Grandma's Toy Box, a retail toy store in downtown Eagle River.

Jim is joined today by his wife, Cathy, his nephew, Dan, and his many friends and supporters who made the long drive from the northwoods to be here with him.

Please help me welcome Jim back to the State Capitol. Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Jim Holperin."

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Olsen

"Senator Luther Olsen was first elected to the State Senate in 2004 after serving in the State Assembly for 10 years. He was born in Berlin, WI, graduated from Berlin High School, and has been a lifelong resident of the 14th Senate District.

Senator Olsen has been a leader in education. He served on the Berlin School Board for 20 years, 9 of them as President, and spent more than a decade chairing the Assembly and Senate Education Committees. Senator Olsen has been at the forefront of Virtual Education and is a member of numerous national boards having recently served as Vice-Chair of the Education Commission of the States.

Senator Olsen also serves as a member of the Wisconsin Education Communications Board and the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board. In addition, he is on the Board of Directors of Manitowoc Mutual and serves as a finance committee member of the Wisconsin Hospital Clinics and Authority Board.

Senator Olsen is probably best known for the Graduated Driver's License legislation he authored a law aimed at improving the way teenagers learn to drive.

Joining Senator Olsen today are his wife Joan and his stepdaughter Mykayla."

Senator Decker Introduced Senator Miller

"The Senator from the 16th begins his second term today. He served six years in the state Assembly and four years on the Dane County Board.

This senator is a former small businessman and also served 30 years with the Wisconsin Air National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. For 20 years he was a fighter pilot, flying A-10s – The Tank Killer. Flying these combat jets should prepare him well for the upcoming session as he Co-Chairs the Joint Committee on Finance.

He will also chair the Senate Committee on Environment. Last Session, the senator shepherded through the legislature landmark legislation ratifying the Great Lakes Compact, thus protecting this grand and precious resource in perpetuity.

The Senator and his wife Jo, just recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They have two daughters and son and two grandchildren.

With us today is Jo Miller, and Mark's mother, Former State Representative Midge Miller, his brother Randy and his niece Christine.

Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Mark Miller."

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Hopper

"Senator Randy Hopper is beginning his first term representing the 18th Senate District. The 18th District includes the cities of Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, and Waupun as well as Southern Winnebago County and most of Fond du Lac County.

Senator Hopper grew up in Taylorville, Illinois and graduated from Denison University in Ohio. Senator Hopper also earned a masters degree from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

For more than 17 years, Senator Hopper has been creating jobs in his community as the owner of a family of small market radio stations including KFIZ, WFON and WCLB. Senator Hopper is also a founding partner of Tall Corn Music, an independent record label and artist management company.

Joining Senator Hopper today are his wife of 12 years, Alysia, their two children, Christopher and Isabella; his parents, Bill and Marilyn Hopper, Alysia's parents, Jim and Bettina Faulkner, and his sister, Stephanie Denby."

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Grothman

"Senator Glenn Grothman is beginning his second term representing the 20th Senate District which includes portions of Washington, Ozaukee, Sheboygan, Fond du Lac and Dodge Counties. The 20th is a diverse district that extends from suburban communities in the south to conservative rural areas in the north.

Senator Grothman followed his father Harold's footsteps by graduating with an undergraduate degree from UW-Madison and a law degree from the UW Law School. He served as an attorney in West Bend for 11 years before winning special election to the State Assembly in 1993.

After 11 years in the State Assembly, Senator Grothman was elected to the State Senate in 2004. Senator Grothman is recognized as a fiscal and policy watchdog on tax, business, parental rights and pro-life issues. He is also known for working across the aisle for common sense legislation.

In addition, Senator Grothman was honored by his Republican colleagues by being elected Assistant Majority Leader for the upcoming session.

Joining Senator Grothman today are his parents, Harold and Joan Grothman.”

Senator Decker Introduced Senator Wirch

“For over 22 years Bob Wirch has focused on grass roots politics—meeting with people at spaghetti dinners and pancake breakfasts, going door-to-door to hear first hand the concerns his constituents have so that he can best represent them here in Madison.

That’s why he knows his district so well and why they have sent him back here today for his 4th term in the State Senate.

Bob has spent much of his time in the legislature fighting for working people and they all know they can count on him to stand up for their rights.

Senator Wirch is joined today by his wife Mary, his sister Pat and her husband David Singer, his sister Laurie and his nieces Holly and Lynsey.

Ladies and gentlemen, Senator Bob Wirch.”

Senator Decker Introduced Senator Lassa

“Senator Julie Lassa has been reelected to her second full term representing the 24th District in Central Wisconsin. She was first elected to the Senate in 2003, after serving two terms in the Assembly. As chair of the Committee on Economic Development, Senator Lassa will continue to seek creative and innovative ways to create new jobs and foster economic growth in these challenging times.

She is joined today by her parents, Jo and Jerry Lassa, her daughters, Taylor and Madison, and her husband John Moe. Please stand and be recognized.

Ladies and gentlemen, State Senator Julie Lassa.”

Senator Decker Introduced Senator Risser

“Senator Risser represents the 26th Senate District. The district includes most of the City of Madison, parts of the cities of Middleton and Fitchburg, as well as the villages of Shorewood Hills and Maple Bluff. He was first elected to the State Assembly in 1956, then to the State Senate in 1962. Senator Risser is currently the longest serving state legislator in the United States. His vast institutional knowledge is invaluable to members from both sides of the aisle, as he has witnessed ebbs and flows of the Legislature for over a half century.

During his tenure, Senator Risser has been an outspoken advocate for the University of Wisconsin System, greater access to healthcare for all, reproductive rights, and protecting the environment for generations to come. As presiding officer of the Senate, Senator Risser stands out as a master of the rules and procedure of the body. He is the senior member of the State of Wisconsin Building Commission, Co-Chair of the Joint Legislative Council, and Chair of the Senate Committee on Ethics Reform and Government Operations.

Senator Risser is joined today by his wife, Nancy; his children, Lisa, Sara and Warner and their families; as well as other special friends.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Fred Risser.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Lazich

“Senator Mary Lazich is beginning her third full term in the State Senate after first being elected in a special election in 1998. Senator Lazich served on the New Berlin City Council and the Waukesha County Board before answering the call to serve in the State Assembly in 1992.

The 28th District is made up of parts of Waukesha, Walworth, Racine and Milwaukee Counties. It is a diverse part of our state running the gamut from urban communities to bountiful farm land.

Senator Lazich has served in leadership positions in the Senate as both Majority Caucus Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Joint Committee on Finance.

Senator Lazich is known as a leading voice on fiscal responsibility and protecting Wisconsin’s children and families against sexual predators.

Senator Lazich and her husband Glen both continue to live in New Berlin where they raised their three adult children.

Joining Senator Lazich today are David and Karen Wimmer from Muskego.”

Senator Decker Introduced Senator Hansen

“The Senator from the 30th District is beginning his third term in the state Senate.

A lifelong resident of Green Bay, he is a graduate of UW–Green Bay, a former teacher and truck driver for the City of Green Bay. He is a devoted husband and father who has stayed true to his blue-collar roots and his district.

He is an avid sports fan which is required when you represent the smallest market in the National Football League and he even served as an usher at Packer games. He is most at home when he is out in the district meeting his constituents and talking politics, discussing the Green Bay Packers or helping visitors to his district find the best fish fry.

Senator Hansen is joined by his wife Jane today.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Senator Dave Hansen.”

Senator Fitzgerald Introduced Senator Kapanke

“Senator Dan Kapanke is beginning his second term in the State Senate. He proudly serves the hard-working people of the Coulee Region with rolling hills, beautiful bluffs overlooking the Mississippi River and rich farm lands. The 32nd District includes a five-county area from La Crosse to Prairie du Chien, to Hillsboro and Viola. Included in his district are the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse and Western Technical College, both strong economic engines for the area.

Senator Kapanke’s focus continues to be on building the state’s strong economic engine: the Agricultural Sector. He continues to work on economic development issues and job creation initiatives that make our state more attractive for business growth.

Joining Senator Kapanke today is Tony Bakken, an officer from the Prairie du Chien correctional facility.”

OATH OF OFFICE

Upon the calling of the newly elected Senators on Monday, January 5, 2009, the following appeared before the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office which was administered by the

Honorable Lynn Adelman of the U.S. Federal Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

SENATE OFFICERS OATH OF OFFICE

Robert Cowles
Spencer Coggs
Sheila Harsdorf
Luther Olsen
Randy Hopper
Robert Wirch
Fred Risser
Dave Hansen

Lena C. Taylor
Alberta Darling
Jim Holperin
Mark Miller
Glenn Grothman
Julie Lassa
Mary Lazich
Dan Kapanke

The President, Fred A. Risser, the President Pro Tempore, Pat Kreitlow, the Chief Clerk, Robert J. Marchant, and the Sergeant at Arms, Edward A. Blazel, having been duly elected by the adoption of **Senate Resolution 1**, appeared together before the bar of the Senate, took and subscribed the oath of office which was administered by the Honorable Lynn Adelman of the U.S. Federal Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

IN THE CHAIR

Senator Risser in the chair.

CALL OF ROLL

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Senators Carpenter, Coggs, Cowles, Darling, Decker, Ellis, Erpenbach, S. Fitzgerald, Grothman, Hansen, Harsdorf, Holperin, Hopper, Jauch, Kanavas, Kapanke, Kedzie, Kreitlow, A. Lasee, Lassa, Lazich, Lehman, Leibham, Miller, Olsen, Plale, Risser, Robson, Schultz, Sullivan, Taylor, Vinehout and Wirch – 33.

Absent – None.

Absent with leave – None.

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Resolution 1

Relating to: notifying the assembly and the governor that the 2009–2010 senate is organized.

By Senators Senators Risser, Decker, Hansen, S. Fitzgerald and Grothman.

The question was: Shall **Senate Resolution 1** be adopted?

The ayes and noes were required and the vote was: ayes, 33; noes, 0; absent or not voting, 0; as follows:

Ayes – Senators Carpenter, Coggs, Cowles, Darling, Decker, Ellis, Erpenbach, S. Fitzgerald, Grothman, Hansen, Harsdorf, Holperin, Hopper, Jauch, Kanavas, Kapanke, Kedzie, Kreitlow, A. Lasee, Lassa, Lazich, Lehman, Leibham, Miller, Olsen, Plale, Risser, Robson, Schultz, Sullivan, Taylor, Vinehout and Wirch – 33.

Noes – None.

Absent or not voting – None.

Adopted.

IN THE CHAIR

President Risser in the chair.

Remarks of President Risser

“According to the script, at this time I have an opportunity to say a few words, and I’m going to take that opportunity. I want to thank Pastor Harvey Stower for starting us out this afternoon, the VFW Day Post 7591 Color Guard Unit of Madison, Wisconsin for presenting the colors, the Trumpet Ensemble from Antigo High School directed by Jeff Dewey in the 12th Senate District for performing our National Anthem, and to Senator Carpenter for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. We appreciate all of you participating in the events of this afternoon.

I also want to thank my Senate colleagues for selecting me as Presiding Officer for this session. I will certainly do my best to maintain the order and decorum of this body. I’ve served in both the Senate minority and Senate majority and I know that regardless of one’s position or party, that everyone has a right to be recognized and has a right to discuss the issues of the day as they see them.

I want to also welcome to the Senate all the family and friends who are here this afternoon who attended our swearing in ceremony, we appreciate your presence. Over the years I’ve been in this body, I’ve never seen the doors to this body closed. We pride ourselves on being an open government, and we appreciate again you being here.

Now you may have noticed a couple of black boxes on the ceiling, and those black boxes have little cameras in them. The events today are being televised by Wisconsin Eye. This is the first session in which Wisconsin Eye will cover the Senate from gavel to gavel. It’s possible for you to follow what were doing by watching their television network or on the internet, if you wish.

I also want to congratulate Senator Pat Kreitlow for being selected President Pro Tem for the next two years. While he is one of our newer Senators, in fact he’s still in his first term, he’s a quick study, and as such he has shown a great ability to handle the procedures of this body and I’m sure he will serve us very well.

I also appreciate the work of our Chief Clerk, Rob Marchant, and his staff. We could not function without them and I’m pleased for his willingness to continue to serve with us. For the last 30 years this Body has maintained a nonpartisan, professional Chief Clerk starting with Don Schneider. Regardless of party in the majority, the Chief Clerk and his staff have done a remarkable job of serving everyone in this body.

I’m also pleased that our Sergeant at Arms is going to stay with us for another two years. Ted Blazel has shown that he is a man who can handle this job very efficiently and he joins the list of top-notch, professional, nonpartisans who make this partisan body work.

A brief history of the Senate, which I think is interesting: You know Senators didn't always have a four-year term. Up until 1882 the term of State Senator was two years. My Great Grandfather, Colonel Warner, who lost an arm in the Civil War, was elected to the this body in 1868 and served one of those two year terms as State Senator. It's also interesting to note, I think, that you see a number of women in this body. No women served as State Senators for the first 127 years that Wisconsin was a state. The first woman State Senator was elected in 1975, and since then we've had a number women elected to leadership positions, and it makes the body much more interesting.

Also, until 1979, the Presiding Officer of this body was the Lieutenant Governor, who served as the President of the Senate. In 1979 the voters of this state amended the constitution to provide that the members of this body should select its own Presiding Officer from amongst its members. Since that time we've had three different Presiding Officers. In addition to myself, Senator Alan Lasee, who's still with us, served as President of the Senate for several sessions. Senator Lasee is also the only other Senator, other than myself, who was here in 1979 when we made the constitutional change, and we're all happy that he's still here with us today. Also we had former Senator Brian Rude serve for several different sessions. So the three of us have served as the only Presiding Officers of the Senate since 1979, when the constitution was changed.

I now want take this opportunity to publicly thank my wife, Nancy for all her help and support. I also want to thank my three children and their families: My daughter Lisa and Randy White and their children Clinton, Adam and Lizzy, my other daughter Sara and her husband Doug Falck, and finally my son Warner, and his wife, Amy and their daughter, Noelle along with two of my good friends, Bonnie Olver and Kara Sailing. They've been able to survive and tolerate my moods throughout my time in the State Legislature.

I want to conclude by saying that I'm truly honored by being selected as President of the Senate. I pledge to all of you that I will do my best to make this body the best legislative body in the country. And further, that we will honor and have an open and fair forum for all to participate in."

Remarks of Majority Leader Decker

"Mr. President, leader Fitzgerald, my fellow senators and their family and friends, thank you for being here today as we swear in the state senators to new terms of service to our state.

We have two new members to welcome and honestly, I wish we were welcoming them into an easier time.

After John F Kennedy won his election he said, "When we got into office, the thing that surprised me the most was that things were as bad as we'd been saying they were."

So welcome to the state budget.

It's true the state has seen better times.

But our state has always risen to challenges and I'm confident this group of men and women will do the same.

In 1932, Wisconsin created the first unemployment insurance to take care of those who had lost their job. It became the model for the nation.

We didn't wait for anyone to show us how to make sure people had what they needed to get going again.

We provided the safety net of unemployment insurance if they lost their job, but also approved public work projects to make sure there were new jobs for them.

And there is no reason why we can't be the model again for how to turn our economy around quickly and get everyone working again.

We can do it by investing in the roads and bridges our businesses need to move their products.

Those investments mean Wisconsin companies hiring Wisconsin workers and paying family supporting jobs with health care and pension benefits.

Wisconsin also led the way with worker training programs by creating the first technical college system.

It was so successful that Congress passed the Smith-Hughes Act to promote vocational education for the first time and it used Wisconsin's system as a model.

We knew from the beginning how important training our workforce was to the success of our state.

So we will make sure our state can still educate the workforce Wisconsin companies need to be the leading companies of the future.

If they have the workers they need to expand their companies here, the company wins, the workers win and the state wins.

The state can help create the jobs of the future by promoting and investing in alternative energies and promising new technologies being developed by Wisconsin universities and Wisconsin companies.

All of these will create jobs that cannot be shipped overseas and generate more jobs right here for those who need one.

We are a state of doers.

We don't let a little snow stop us from getting around.

We invented four-wheel drive.

We didn't just plant and harvest our fields.

We invented gas-powered tractors to make it more efficient.

We didn't wait for others to agree that women should vote.

We were the first to ratify the constitutional amendment.

We didn't just play professional football.

We perfected it and the Packers won the first Super Bowl.

We don't just vote.

We have one of the highest voter turnouts in the nation because we fight to keep the voting booth open for every eligible voter.

And that's something we should be proud of.

In the last election, almost 3 million people voted in Wisconsin.

And they brought us the group of senators that we are swearing in today.

I am honored to serve with you and look forward to working with everyone.

Thank you."

Remarks of Minority Leader Fitzgerald

"Mr. President, Majority Leader Decker, fellow colleagues:

First, let me congratulate the 16 Senators being inaugurated here today. To those that are returning to this chamber, I am eager to continue working with you this session on the challenges our state will face. To our two newest Senators coming to this chamber for the first time, let me welcome you and wish you luck as you begin your freshman terms. And to the families, friends and guests in attendance, I want to extend a warm welcome to the Wisconsin State Senate to you as well.

I also want to thank my Republican colleagues for allowing me the honor of serving as their leader for the upcoming session. I am humbled by their support and trust and I intend to spend the next two years working with you to represent your interests and the interests of your constituents.

Inaugurations are about new beginnings. Wisconsin is facing historic challenges in the next two years including an unprecedented budget deficit. For the first time in more than twenty years, the voters have put the Democrats in charge of the Legislature and the Governor's office. As the majority party, it will be your job to lead this body, run it efficiently and fairly, and enact an agenda. It is my hope that the majority will reach out to the minority to craft an agenda that will solve our challenges without increasing the burden on hardworking families or the employers that are struggling to stay afloat.

In that spirit, I pledge the assistance of the minority party in achieving this goal. Elections are a time for choices, and choices naturally put a spotlight on the differences between candidates and parties. But inaugurations should be about coming together. Now is the time for Republicans and Democrats to work together on our shared desire to serve our constituents and make Wisconsin a better place to live, work, raise our families and retire.

During the day-to-day politics that often consumes this building it is easy to forget about how much the majority and minority agree. We agree that our tax burden is too high. We agree that we must rebuild our economy. We agree that health care is too expensive. We agree on our obligation to provide a quality education for our children, both at the K-12 level and the university.

The people of Wisconsin expect us to find solutions, but they don't expect us to compromise our core principles. While we agree on desired outcomes, we will often have different ideas on how best to achieve them. As the minority party, we cannot, and will not, shy away from discussing and debating these differences.

If we agree that our tax burden is too high, then we should also agree that increasing taxes, any taxes, will only make that burden higher.

If we agree that we must rebuild our economy, then we should also agree that making Wisconsin more attractive to entrepreneurs is the answer, not higher businesses taxes and more red tape.

If we agree that health care is too expensive, then we should also agree that increased government manipulation and control of the market will only make it more expensive.

And if we agree that we have an educational obligation to our children, then we should also agree that throwing more money at a broken system will only create a bigger broken system. We need real education reform at all levels that rewards results and ensures that funding ends up in the classroom and not the bureaucracy.

While the outcomes are the same, the differences in achieving them are important. They should be debated and I look forward to those debates.

The minority party is ready to get to work with our colleagues in the outer ring, as well as the members of the Assembly and the governor to do the job the people expect of us. I'm optimistic that we will rise to the occasion.

Thank you."

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

The joint committee on **Legislative Organization** reports and recommends:

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2009-2010 biennial session period.

Introduction.

Ayes, 10 – Senators Risser, Decker, Hansen, S. Fitzgerald and Grothman; Representatives Sheridan, Nelson, Seidel, J. Fitzgerald, and Gottlieb.

Noes, 0 – None.

FRED RISSE

Senate Chairperson

Considered as privileged and taken up.

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Relating to: the session schedule for the 2009-2010 biennial session period.

Introduced by the Joint Committee on Legislative Organization.

Senate amendment 1 to **Senate Joint Resolution 1** offered by Senator Decker.

The question was: Shall Senate amendment 1 to **Senate Joint Resolution 1** be adopted?

Adopted.

The question was: Shall **Senate Joint Resolution 1** be adopted?

The ayes and noes were required and the vote was: ayes, 33; noes, 0; absent or not voting, 0; as follows:

Ayes – Senators Carpenter, Coggs, Cowles, Darling, Decker, Ellis, Erpenbach, S. Fitzgerald, Grothman, Hansen, Harsdorf, Holperin, Hopper, Jauch, Kanavas, Kapanke, Kedzie, Kreitlow, A. Lasee, Lassa, Lazich, Lehman, Leibham, Miller, Olsen, Plale, Risser, Robson, Schultz, Sullivan, Taylor, Vinehout and Wirth – 33.

Noes – None.

Absent or not voting – None.

Adopted.

Senator Decker, with unanimous consent, asked that all action be immediately messaged to the Assembly.

Senate Joint Resolution 1

Messaged.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ADJOURNMENT HONORS AND REMARKS UNDER SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

Senator Darling, with unanimous consent, introduced her guest attending the 2009 inaugural; her husband Dr. William Darling.

Senator Hansen, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2009 inaugural; his wife Jane Hansen, and his daughter and son-in-law, Christy and Brandon Scharer.

Senator Hansen, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor of his late father and mother, Don and Clare Hansen; and granddaughter Elliana Zaidel.

Senator Harsdorf, with unanimous consent, introduced her guest attending the 2009 inaugural; Steve, Kathy, and Tommy Metcalf; Jack, Ben, and Josh Eastman; Karen and Rex Bailey; Janey and Whitney Huppert; Anette Olson, Barbara Dillow, Francis Ogden, Don Nellesen, Tony Huppert, Casie Kelley, Naomi Magner, Sally and Bill Friedlander; Ryan Sicard, Janice and Steve Healy; Gordy and Pat Peterson; Lucas and Matthew Pillman; Jim and Jan Jablonski; Nick Henneman, Jonathan and Bridget Harsdorf; Craig and Marie Louise Olson; Chuck and Ricci Struemke; Les and Meredith Berg; Kim and Bill Dailey; Erin and Ian Dailey; Max and Barb Klecker; and Ryan Bailey.

Senator Hopper, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2009 inaugural; Alysia Hopper, Christopher Hopper, Isabella Hopper, William Hopper, Marylin Hopper, Jim Faulkner, Bettina Faulkner, Marijke Van der plas, Maelchesidech Pongan, Stephanie Denby, Alex Denby, Chandler Denby, Parker Denby, Dan Halfman, Mary Halfman, Anne Schaefer, Martina Horwitz, Glen Horwitz, John Williamson, and Sherry Williamson.

Senator Jauch, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor of Martin Hanson who died in November but will always be remembered as one of the most important and revered environmental leaders of the last century. Martin Hanson loved the land and lived his life to preserve it. He was happiest when he was in his beautiful property in Mellen, Wisconsin surrounded by the wildlife he cared for and the natural resources that sustained his life and his passion for protecting it. Martin will always be remembered and respected for his successful advocacy for major environmental policies that will protect our natural resources and enrich the quality of life for generations long into the future. Gaylord Nelson, Congressman Dave Obey and countless other elected officials relied upon Martin for his spirited advocacy on a broad array of environmental causes, especially the protection of the Apostle Islands of Lake Superior as the Apostle Island National Lakeshore, the reintroduction of elk into the North Woods, and the creation of wild and scenic waterways. He and others who know Martin have been blessed by his humor, have been motivated by his endless ideas and entertained through his wildlife videos and countless stories. One of Martin's last projects was a request that the Brunsweiler River that he loved so much be designated as a Wild River to protect this natural resource for the future. In respect of Martin and confirmation of this stewardship legacy, Representative Sherman and Senator Jauch are today circulating co-sponsorship of this legislation. Martin is a member of an elite group of environmental champions, Gaylord Nelson, Aldo Leopold, Sigurd Olson, and John Muir who leave our natural resources so much cleaner and our lives richer through their energetic stewardship leadership.

Senator Lassa, with unanimous consent, introduced her guests attending the 2009 inaugural; her husband John Moe, her parents, Jo and Jerry Lassa; her daughters, Taylor and Madison Moe; and her sister, Katie Lassa.

Senator Lazich, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor of the Lazich Office's Head Intern David Wimmer, who is attending Inauguration with his mother, Karen Wimmer.

Senator Miller, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor of Jon Bales, District Superintendent for the DeForest Area School district, who is the Wisconsin 2009 Superintendent of the Year.

Senator Risser, with unanimous consent, asked that when the Senate adjourn, it do so in honor of his wife, Nancy and their three children and their families: His daughter Lisa and Randy White and their children Clinton, Adam and Lizzy; his other daughter Sara and her husband Doug Falck; and finally his son Warner, and his wife Amy, and their daughter Noelle; along with two of Senator Risser's good friends, Bonnie Olver and Kara Sailing.

Senate Chief Clerk Robert Marchant, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2009 inaugural; Amy, Evelyn and Matthew Marchant; and Judy and Wayne Roller.

Senate Sergeant at Arms Ted Blazel, with unanimous consent, introduced his guests attending the 2009 inaugural; his wife Hanna Blazel, and his parents Robert and Mary Kay Blazel.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Decker, with unanimous consent, asked that the Senate adjourn until Tuesday, January 13, 2009, pursuant to **Senate Joint Resolution 1**.

Adjourned.

3:15 P.M.

MESSAGES FROM THE ASSEMBLY

By Patrick E. Fuller, chief clerk.

Mr. President:

I am directed to inform you that the Assembly is organized and ready to proceed to the business of the 2009–2010 session.

Concurred in:

Senate Joint Resolution 1